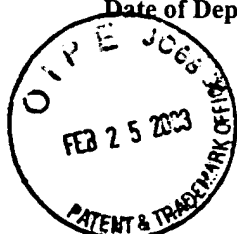


Express Mail Label No.: EV138530938US

Date of Dep sit: February 25, 2003

PATENT APPLICATION  
Attorney Docket No. 15966-518 RCE  
(CURA-18 RCE)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Mehta et al.  
ASSIGNEE: CuraGen Corporation  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/351,617 EXAMINER: P. Ponnaluri  
FILING DATE: July 12, 1999 ART UNIT: 1639  
FOR: GENERAL SCREENING METHOD FOR LIGAND-PROTEIN INTERACTIONS

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This is in response to the final Office Action, mailed November 25, 2002, in the above-identified application. With no extension of time, these documents are due on or before February 25, 2003. No fees are believed due in connection with this submission. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-0311 (Reference No. 15966-518).

AMENDMENT

Please amend claims 1, 31 and 35 and replace the pending claims with the following claims:

1. (Thrice amended) A method for identifying a cellular component to which a small molecule is capable of binding, comprising:
  - (a) providing a hybrid ligand consisting essentially of two ligands, identified as ligand A and ligand B that are linked together, wherein
    - (i) ligand A has a specificity for a predetermined target;
    - (ii) ligand A forms an irreversible covalent bond with the predetermined target;
    - (iii) and ligand B is the small molecule;
  - (b) introducing the hybrid ligand into at least one sample, the sample containing an environment, the environment containing;

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